



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

VIOLA LIUZZO MURDER

PART 6 OF 14

FILE NUMBER : 44-28601

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 27 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Coarad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

SI BIRMINGHAM

12 PM CST URGENT 4-27-65 DLR

DIRECTOR, MILWAUKEE, MOBILE

FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1236) (P)

2147 10
Aug 6

IGENE THOMAS, ET AL. VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL DASH VICTIMS. CR DASH EL.

X MOBILE.

SI MOBILE TELETYPE APRIL TWENTYSIX LAST.

SA [REDACTED] AND OTHER BH AGENTS WILL APPEAR AS b7C
CESSARY WITNESS IN MURDER TRIALS OF SUBJECTS AT LOWNDES COUNTY,
ALABAMA, COMMENCING MAY THREE, NINETEEN SIXTYFIVE.

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SI MILWAUK

60 MAY 5 1965

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44-28601-725

25 APR 28 1965

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SI MOBILE

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 26 1965

TELETYPE

1 PM CST URGENT 4/26/65

VFP

DIRECTOR, BIRMINGHAM AND MIAMI

FROM MOBILE 144-1245/

IGENE THOMAS, ET AL, VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO-VICTIM CR EL.

Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Feit
Mr. Gandy
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

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JCB

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PRELIMINARY HEARING IN HAYNEVILLE IN THIS CAPT. MATTER
1 STATE COURT FOUR TWENTY SIX SIXTYFIVE RESULTING IN SEVERANCE
THE SUBJECTS CASES. TRIAL SCHEDULED FOR FIVE THREE SIXTYFIVE
SUBJECT COLLIER LEROY WILKINS JR.

DEFENDENTS REPRESENTED BY BIRMINGHAM ATTORNEY MATT MURPHY,
INTRODUCED NOT GUILTY PLEAS TO FIRST DEGREE MURDER
CHARGES. MURPHY WAS AXIOUS TO PROCEED. INDICATED HE WOULD FILE A
MOTION TO QUASH THIS INDICTMENT ON THE BASIS THAT THE PRESIDENT
ANNOUNCEMENT THAT OF SUBJECTS ARREST WAS PREJUDICED TO THEM AND
MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO HAVE A FAIR TRIAL. MURPHY ALSO
SERVED THE RIGHT TO FILE OTHER MOTIONS AND PLEAS.

b3
b7A
b7C

NO DAY TRIAL. 180
ID PAGE 6 ON MAY 3, 1965.

25 APR 28 1965

6/21/

Memorandum

Mr. Belmont *WESL*
A. Rosen *11*

TO : SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS ET AL.
VIOLA LIUZZO AKA (DECEASED)
LEROY JEROME MATSON - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS,
ELECTION LAWS

DATE: April 23, 1965

- 1- Mr. Belmont
- 1- Mr. Rosen
- 1- Mr. Malley
- 1- Mr. McGowan
- 1- Mr. Hines

The Lowndes County, Alabama, Grand Jury on 4-22-65 returned an indictment against subjects William Eaton, Collie Leroy Wilkins and Eugene Thomas, charging them with the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County on the night of 3-25-65. They were arrested on the indictments on 4-22-65 and released on \$10,000 bond each. The three subjects are represented by Klan Attorney, Matt Murphy of Birmingham, Alabama, and according to press reports, Murphy has stated that he would subpoena FBI Director, John Edgar Hoover and President Lyndon Johnson for the trial scheduled for 5-3-65.

The possibility of the issuance of a state subpoena for the Director and President Johnson was discussed with Departmental Attorney, John Murphy, 4-23-65, and Murphy advised that such a subpoena would have absolutely no force and effect outside of the boundaries of the State of Alabama. The law on this point in general states that the subpoena of one state has no extra territorial effect and cannot compel the attendance of witnesses not within the state. He stated that there exists between some states an agreement concerning the production of witnesses. However, the persons involved here reside in the District of Columbia and the District of Columbia has no such agreement with any state.

It is noted that since the presence of the Director and the President cannot be commanded at the trial of this matter in Alabama, any appearance made in answer to the subpoenas would of necessity be voluntary and appropriate only if their appearance could serve the ends of justice. Neither the Director nor the President could testify to the direct facts of the case from a personal observation or participation, and therefore, their appearance would not in any way enhance the ends of justice and would be irrelevant to the trial issue.

O MAY 1, 1965
111 messenger

REC-44-
MAY 1-247
CONTINUED - OVER

APR 30 1965
PERS. REC. UNIT

Belmont	✓
Mohr	✓
DeLoach	✓
Casper	✓
Celshon	✓
Conrad	✓
Felt	✓
Gale	✓
Rosen	✓
Sullivan	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Holmes	✓
Conn	✓

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.

ACTION

In the event a subpoena is issued for the Director's appearance at the trial, you will be advised and the matter will be promptly referred to the Department.

John Gandy

R

Jean

C

V. J.

Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____



Ku Klux Klansmen William Eaton, Collie Leroy Wilkins and Eugene Thomas (left to right) conferred with their lawyer, Matt Murphy (on phone), in Birmingham yesterday after a Lowndes County, Ala., grand jury indicted them on charges of murdering civil rights worker Viola Gregg Liuzzo. They insisted they were innocent. Atty. Murphy said he would subpoena FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover and President Johnson — tho, he conceded, the President is immune from answering a subpoena — for the May 3 trial. The Klansmen were freed on \$10,000 bond each.

—UPI Telephoto

EUGENE THOMAS ET AL.
VIOLA LIUZZO AKA (DECEASED)
LEROY JEROME MATSON VICTIMS
CR - EL
BUFILE 44-28601

The Washington Post and _____
Times Herald _____
The Washington Daily News _____
The Evening Star _____
New York Herald Tribune _____
New York Journal-American _____
New York Mirror _____
New York Daily News _____
New York Post _____
The New York Times _____
The Worker _____
The New Leader _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
People's World _____
Date 4/23/65

File
6-247

ENCLOSURE

44-28601-247

TE: 4/23/65

Re:

FBI, Birmingham (44-1236)

EUGENE THOMAS; et al.;
MRS. VIOLA LIL JO, aka;
et al., VICTIMS;
CR - EL

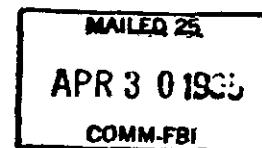
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Invoice of Contents

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REGISTERED MAIL

4/30 (61)



FBI File No.

44-38801

4/23/65 PC-83691 GY

MAY 10 1965

Klanman Depicted As BI Informant

Special To The Times
From The Los Angeles Times

DETROIT — A Ku Klux man who was arrested in ambush slaying of Mrs. Viuzzo, a white civil rights organizer from Detroit, apparently has turned state's evidence.

Accusations are he was an FBI informant even before the mur-

der charges against the man, Gary Tommy Rowe, 34, were dropped but a jury indicted three of his Klansmen.

AN ATTORNEY Matt H. Murphy Jr. of Birmingham, who represented all four of the defendants, confirmed yesterday charged with violating Mrs. Liuzzo's civil rights. The Justice Department declined to explain why it withdrew the complaint.

Murphy said it "may have" been true" that Rowe was an informant prior to the Liuzzo case, but he warned "this will backfire in more than one. There are such men as counterespies."

The attorney, predicting the will be "tremendously embarrassing to the federal government," said he plans to file a writ of habeas corpus to request the FBI to reveal "where are detaining my client." Murphy was listed as attorney for all four Klansmen when they were arrested on March 27, the day after the killing. Dismissal of the complaint against Rowe apparently came as a surprise to Murphy.

EARLIER, Murphy had accused the FBI of trying to bribe him to give information.



—AP Wirephoto

Rowe Hides Face At Birmingham Hearing

The four Klansmen were confirmed yesterday charged with violating Mrs. Liuzzo's civil rights. The Justice Department declined to explain why it withdrew the complaint.

Eugene Thomas, 42, steel-worker of Fairfield; William Orville Eaton, 41, former steelworker of Bessemer, and Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr., 21, auto mechanic of Fairfield, are free under \$50,000 bond each on the charges.

When Rowe was arrested federal officials told the press the Klanman was "unemployed."

Alabama Atty. Gen. Richmond Flowers has said he will ask the Lowndes County grand jury, which convenes Monday, to return murder indictments in the case. He indicated only three indictments would be sought.

ANY LINKS between Rowe and the FBI prior to the Liuzzo killing would add another strange twist to an already unusual and controversial case.

The day after the murder, President Johnson, in an unprecedented television address, announced the four arrests, identified the defendants as Klansmen, and bitterly denounced

the "hooded society off bigots."

To some this sounded like the President had prejudged the guilt of the defendants before an audience of millions. Klan leaders complained bitterly and the American Civil Liberties Union said the President's announcement was incompatible with a system of justice that presumes the defendant innocent until proven guilty.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

20 St. Petersburg Ti
St. Petersburg, F

Date: April 18, 1965

Edition:

Author:

Editor: Courtland Under

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Tampa

Being Investigated

44-28601-

249

EXPOSURE

Charges Against One of Four Accused Ku Kluxers Dropped

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Justice Department charges yesterday against a Birmingham man who was arrested within hours after March 25 civil rights slaying of a Detroit housewife.

order dismissing a conspiracy charge against Gary James Rowe Jr., 35, was filed by U.S. Commissioner M. Guttry.

motion to dismiss the case came from Asst. U.S.

J. O. Sentell.

Washington, a Justice Department spokesman said dismissal of the charge was a wise action since the grand jury failed to indict Rowe. The spokesman did not comment.

Rowe was arrested with three other Birmingham area men—described by President Johnson as being members of the Ku Klux Klan—by FBI agents the day after Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, 39, was shot to death from ambush near Lowndesboro, Ala.

The shooting occurred on the highway being used by civil rights marchers for their Selma-to-Montgomery march to dramatize a voter registration campaign.

Mrs. Liuzzo, one of many out-of-state volunteers drawn to the march, had been shuttling demonstrators from Selma to the state capital. She was slain shortly after she had left a Selma church by car. A Negro

youth in the vehicle escaped injury.

The other men arrested after her death were Eugene Thomas, 42, an employee of U.S. Steel at Bessemer; Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr., 21, a self-employed mechanic of Fairfield; and William Orville Eaton, 41, a retired steel worker, also of Bessemer.

A federal grand jury indicted Thomas, Eaton and Wilkins April 6 on charges of violating the constitutional rights of civil rights demonstrators. Rowe was not indicted, and dismissal of the original charges against him thus came as no surprise.

The three indicted men are free on bonds of \$50,000 each.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

3-B The Tampa Tribune
Tampa, Florida

Date: April 15, 1965

Edition:

Author:

Editor: James A. Clendin

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Tampa

Being Investigated

44-28601-319
ENCLOSURE

4-29-65

PLAINTEXT

1 - Mr. Hines

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO SACS BIRMINGHAM
MOBILE

FROM DIRECTOR FBI

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL. VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL. DASH VICTIMS.CR;EL

RE MOBILE TELETYPE TO BUREAU AND BIRMINGHAM APRIL TWENTY
EIGHTH, ONE NINE SIX FIVE.

BIRMINGHAM REVIEW FILES RE INDIVIDUALS SUBPOENAED BY
DEFENSE IN BIRMINGHAM DIVISION AND PREPARE MEMORANDUM SUITABLE
FOR DISSEMINATION TO STATE AUTHORITIES, AS SET FORTH IN
REFERENCED TELETYPE. FURNISH COPIES OF SUCH MEMORANDA PRE-
PARED TO BUREAU.

3 JWH:twt (3) *AMJ* *RR* *APR 30 1965*

Memo Rosen to Belmont 4/29/65

INITIATED DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

1 MAY 1 1965

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
APR 30 1965
TELETYPE

This matter relates to murder of
civil rights worker, Mrs. Viola Liuzzo,
between Selma and Montgomery, Alabama,
3-25-65. Case is being handled in State
court.

Murphy is Klan attorney.

VL:hw

APR 26 1965

TEL. 12

I MOBILE

5 PM CSD URGENT 4/26/65

VFP

DIRECTOR, BIRMINGHAM AND MIAMI

DM MOBILES 44-1245/

ENE THOMAS, ET AL, VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO-VICTIM CR EL.

PRELIMINARY HEARING IN HAYNEVILLE IN THIS CAPT. MATTER
STATE COURT FOUR TWENTY SIX SIXTYFIVE RESULTING IN SEVERANCE
THE SUBJECTS CASES. TRIAL SCHEDULED FOR FIVE THREE SIXTYFIVE
SUBJECT GOLIER LEROY WILKINS JR.

DEFENDENTS REPRESENTED BY BIRMINGHAM ATTORNEY MATT MURPHY,
INTRODUCED NOT GUILTY PLEAS TO FIRST DEGREE MURDER
ARGES. MURPHY WAS AXIOUS TO PROCEED. INDICATED HE WOULD FILE A
ITION TO QUASH THIS INDICTMENT ON THE BASIS THAT THE PRESIDENT
OUNCEMENT THAT OF SUBJECTS ARREST WAS PREJUDICED TO THEM AND
DE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO HAVE A FAIR TRIAL. MURPHY ALSO
SERVED THE RIGHT TO FILE OTHER MOTIONS AND PLEAS.

DAY TRIAL.

MAY 6 1965

PAGE ONE

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. [unclear]
Mr. Felt
Mr. [unclear]
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

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Memorandum

Mr. Rosen

DATE: April 30, 1965

TO: C. L. McGowan

REJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.
VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS

- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. Hines

With reference to the receipt of a subpoena by SAC Ingram to testify as a witness for the defendant Collie Wilkins in this matter, Departmental Attorney Robert Owen called to verify the fact that SAC Ingram had actually been served. I advised Owen that Ingram had been served with a subpoena yesterday afternoon by the Deputy Sheriff of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office and that the subpoena called for him to appear at Wilkins' trial on Monday, 5/3/65. Owen inquired as to whether the subpoena stated a definite time for Ingram's appearance, and I advised him that it did not. It simply called for his appearance on 5/3/65.

Owen stated that the matter is still under discussion at the Department, that he has been in conference with Assistant Attorney General Doar concerning the matter and that a final decision had not yet been reached. Owen indicated that the Department's present feeling in the matter is that they will file a motion to quash the subpoena on the basis that Ingram, from personal knowledge, cannot testify to information pertinent to the trial.

Owen stated that as soon as a definite decision is reached he will advise us.

REC-99

44-7167-166

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get answer
other

MAY 3 1965

6 JGK/cac
(5) A1 1965

MAY 2, 1965

I MOBILE

58 PM CST 5/2/65 URGENT CCM TELETYPE

→ DIRECTOR (44-28601) AND BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

FROM MOBILE (44-1245) 2 PAGES

also known as

IGENE THOMAS; ET AL. MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA ET AL
and others election laws
CTIMS; ER-ET

Mr. Tolson
 Mr. Belmont
 Mr. Mohr
 Mr. DeLoach
 Mr. Casper
 Mr. Callahan
 Mr. Conrad
 Mr. Felt
 Mr. Gale
 Mr. Glavin
 Mr. Tavel
 Mr. Trotter
 Tele. Room
 Miss Holmes
 Miss Gandy

W.C.M.
 b7
 b7c

ON EVENING OF MAY FIRST LAST AND MAY SECOND [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] ALABAMA
 [REDACTED] GROVE HILL, ALA. ADVISED THAT ON MAY FIRST
 [REDACTED] ST KLAN HELD MEETING AT BLADON SPRINGS, ALA. BETWEEN
 [REDACTED] 10 HUNDRED AND THREE HUNDRED PERSONS ATTENDED MEETING.
 [REDACTED] D DUNAGAN, COFFEEVILLE, ALA. IN CHARGE OF MEETING WHICH
 [REDACTED] IS HELD IN STATE PARK. DUNAGAN INTRODUCED A MR. CREEL,
 [REDACTED] AND DRAGAN OF KLAN FROM BESSEMER, ALA. CREEL LATER
 [REDACTED] INTRODUCED THREE MEN WHO WERE "IDENTIFIED AS MEN CHARGED
 [REDACTED] WITH MURDER OF VICTIM LIUZZO". HOLLIS CURL, EDITOR, CHOCTAW
 [REDACTED] ADVOCATE, A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED AT BUTLER, ALA.,
 [REDACTED] ADVISED ROBERT CREEL, GRAND DRAGON, OF KKK FROM
 [REDACTED] RMINGHAM, ALA. ATTENDED KLAN ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF
 [REDACTED] KLAN AT BLADEN SPRINGS, ALA. CREEL SPOKE AT MEETING AND
 [REDACTED] INTRODUCED THREE MEN WHO WERE IDENTIFIED AS BEING PERSONS
 [REDACTED] WHO WERE ARRESTED FOR MURDER OF VICTIM LIUZZO. CURL STATES
 [REDACTED] APPROXIMATELY FIFTY PERSONS JOINED KLAN AT MEETING. BOTH
 [REDACTED] ERILF PAUL AND CURL ADVISED THAT SUBJECTS DID NOT SPEAK

56 MAY 10 1965

MR. FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DIRECTOR

ID PAGE ONE

REC-99 11-28601-
 6-102 8 MAY 4 1965
 Mr. Ron G. Belmont 5/4/65
 JWH: m
 TFX. Freund

PAGE TWO

I'D CAN NOT STATE IF FUNDS COLLECTED FOR SUBJECTS
DEFENSE SINCE COLLECTION WAS MADE BUT THIS COLLECTION WAS
BELIEVED TO BE FOR KLAN AND MONEY COLLECTED FROM NEW MEMBERS.
OTH CURL AND PAUL STATE THREE SUBJECTS INTRODUCED TO CROWD
Y CREEL QUOTE DO THESE MEN LOOK LIKE MURDERS? UNQUOTE.

ID

BJH

WASH DC

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PLS

MR ROSEN

FEB 25 1968

WPA 5 2014

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b7C
Corpus Christi Tex
April 21, 1965

V
Mr. Casper
Mr. Cella
Mr. Conr
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Moser
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mrs. Trott
Tele. Room
Miss Holm
Miss Gann

Mr. Edgar Hoover
Director of F. B. I.
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir:

Please consider this a letter of protest at the actions of the F. B. I. in Alabama concerning the slaying of Mrs Viola Liuzzo. I don't condone murder for any reason whatsoever. But I believe that if this lady had been at home tending her duties as wife and mother, she would still be alive. You, yourself know what an insult Mrs Liuzzo made to the people of Ala., cavorting around with a Negro Buck after dark in their state. Now we come to Mr Gary T. Rowe F. B. I. Agent who incites to violence and then helps murder, But gets away with it because he is protected by his rights with the F. B. I. I think Mr. Rowe is as guilty as the other three men and should receive the same sentence as the other three men. Mr Hoover if you cannot keep the F. B. I. from being used as a political pawn you should resign and let Lyndon B. (Baines or Beans) Johnson give your job to Martin Luther (after all he is a peaceful man? he received the Nobel Peace Award?) Until recently the F. B. I. has been an efficient, honest and well behaved law enforcement agency lets get it back that way and keep out the scandals.

Thanks for listening

b7C
Corpus Christi Tex

P. S. I have written my Senator, Congressman and the President my views

AEH

COPY:nm

ENCLOSURE

REC-99
ST-117

44-7601259
6 MAY 3 1965

EX-10X
MAY 4 1965

D. H. HANSON
FBI - WASH. D. C.

b7c

Mr J. Edgar Hoover
Director of F.B.I.
Washington D.C.

Cyrus Christie
April 21, 1965

Please Sir:

Please consider this a letter
of protest at the actions of
the F.B.I. in Alabama concerning
the slaying of Mrs Viola Liuzzo.
I don't condone murder ~~for any~~
reason whatsoever. But I believe
that if this lady had been at
home taking her duties as wife
and mother, she would still be
alive. You, yourself know
what an insult Mrs Liuzzo made
to the people of Ala., carrying
around with a Negro Buck
After dark in their state.

Now we come to Mr
Harry T. Boyce F.B.I. Agent
who incites to violence and
then helps murder, ~~But gets~~
away with it because

/ ENCLOSURE (transcription)

CORRESPONDENCE

he is Protected by his
agents with the F.B.I.
I think Mr. Poore is as
guilty as the other three
men And should receive the
same sentence as the other
three men. Mr. Hoover if you
cannot keep the F.B.I. from
being used as a political
power you should resign
and let Lyndon B. (Baines) Johnson
give your job to Martin Luther
King after all he is a peaceful man
he received the Nobel Peace Award?
Until recently the F.B.I. has
been an efficient, honest and well
behaved law enforcement Agency
lets get it back that way
and keep out the scandals.

Frank for listening

b7C

P.S. I have written
my Senator, Congressman
and the President my
views Sept. 29.

Corpus Christi Tex

Please Read

The Accused in Liuzzo Death Apparently Spy for FBI

By FRED P. GRAHAM
• New York Times News Service

HAYNESVILLE, Ala. — Gary F. Rowe, one of the four men originally accused by federal officers in the slaying of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, emerged today as an apparent undercover agent or the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Rowe, 34, testified for about 40 hours yesterday afternoon

before a Lowndes County grand jury which is investigating the killing of the Detroit civil rights worker on March 25.

The grand jury is expected to report its decision today.

Under elaborate cloak-and-dagger security measures by the FBI, Rowe slipped into the grand jury room in the Lowndes County courthouse at 3 p.m.

Two hours later, reporters

spotted him as he and two FBI special agents dashed for the back door of the courthouse.

An FBI man blocked the door as the sunburned, red-haired Birmingham man sped away in the back seat of a light green car, accompanied by two FBI men.

Rowe was said to have worn what appeared to be a .38-caliber revolver in a hip holster as he

entered the grand jury room, and was seen wearing it as he climbed into the car.

It was later learned from reliable sources here that Rowe has been a paid informant of the FBI for the past six years.

It was reported that Rowe said he had been paid by the FBI since 1959 for reporting on Ku Klux Klan activities.

On March 26, Rowe and Eu-

gene Thomas, 43, and William D. Eaton, 41, both of Bessemer, Ala., and Collie Le Roy Wilkins Jr., 21, of Fairfield, Ala., were arrested by FBI agents and charged with conspiring to violate Mrs. Liuzzo's civil rights in the killing. Since murder is not a federal crime, this was the only charge that could be placed against the men.

Last week, when a federal

grand jury indicted the other three men but did not indict Rowe, reports began to circulate that he was an undercover informant. Federal charges against Rowe were dropped and he was freed.

It is reported that Rowe telephoned the FBI before he left for Selma the night of the killing, and that he called them after he returned to Birmingham.

Indications are that Rowe was in the assailants' car when Mrs. Liuzzo was killed, but could not prevent the shooting.

Rowe's testimony was not disclosed.

After President Johnson announced the arrests in a telecast on March 26, it had been speculated that FBI agents had been able to make such speedy

See FBI, Page 1

44-25601 259

ENCLOSURE

Continued from Page 1

arrests because cars of all known Ku Klux Klansmen in the area had been under surveillance.

The state grand jury of 18 white men heard evidence on the Liuzzo case during the entire day yesterday.

Testimony was also given by Leroy Moton, 19, the Negro civil rights worker for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference who was in the car with Mrs. Liuzzo when she was shot.

FBI agents were conspicuous for their absence during the morning, as state and county prosecutors apparently hoped to make a case without associating the federal government with the charges against the accused persons.

The first indication that Rowe might be an informant came when he was unexplainedly brought to the federal arraignment by FBI agents three hours after the other three defendants had arrived.

The Corpus Christi Tim

Published every week-day afternoon
by the Caller-Times Publishing Co.

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 1965

Second class postage
Corpus Christi.

Memorandum

b

TO : Mr. DeLoach ✓
OM : D. C. Morrell
JECT: MR. [REDACTED]
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

DATE: 4-29-65

DeLoach _____
Cooper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Hoover _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Candy _____

b7c
Morrell

By letter dated 4-21-65 captioned individual advised the purpose of his letter was to protest the activities of the FBI in connection with the slaying of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo. Thereafter, he sets forth obvious bigoted views and refers to a newspaper article which clearly labels Gary T. Rowe as a paid informant of the FBI and then deliberately assigns the role to Rowe as an FBI Agent. [REDACTED] urges Mr. Hoover to prevent President Lyndon "Beans" Johnson from using the FBI and to appoint Martin Luther (King) as director since he received the Nobel Peace Award. He claims the FBI until recently had been efficient and well behaved and urges that we return to these precepts and avoid scandal. He mentions he has written his senator, congressman and the President concerning his views.

BUFILES:

b7c

There is no information identifiable with Mr. [REDACTED] in Bufiles.

OBSERVATIONS:

b7c

[REDACTED] has fallen in the same problem many individuals have in understanding the relationship of an informant to the Bureau. However, it would appear his bigoted views would prevent us from advising him of the Bureau's position in this case and therefore, no purpose would be served by acknowledging his communication.

RECOMMENDATION:

EX 110 REC-99

44-28601-2960

- That his letter not be acknowledged.

5 MAY 3 1965

1 - Mr. DeLoach

DTP:djg

(4)

56 MAY 10 1965 XEROX

-dja

JFM

I

MONI _____
DeLoach _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

Hansman Released in Liuzzo Slaying Apparently Worked Secretly for FBI

By Jack Nelson
Los Angeles Times

AYNEVILLE, Ala., April 25.—A Ku Klux Klansman who apparently witnessed the slaying of Viola Liuzzo of Detroit while he was working undercover for the FBI, testified before the Lowndes County grand jury today.

Gary T. Rowe Jr., 34, brought in under a heavy FBI guard, testified for two hours before the jury, and then was whisked off by agents who used force to keep a reporter from trying to interview him.

Rowe was armed with a pistol in a holster. He and three other Klansmen were arrested in the March 25 killing and booked on Federal charges of violating Mrs. Liuzzo's civil rights. At the Justice Department, however, dropped the charges against Rowe. It has declined to say why.

Eugene Thomas, 42, Fairfield steelworker; William O. Atton, 41, a former steelworker from Bessemer, and Ollie Leroy Wilkins Jr., 21, an airfield auto mechanic, are free under \$50,000 bond each on the Federal charges.

Mrs. Liuzzo, a white civil rights demonstrator, was killed by bullets fired from a

passing car as she drove from Selma to Montgomery a few hours after the March 25 march to the State Capitol.

With her was a 19-year-old Negro, Leroy Moton, who works for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Moton, who escaped injury, also testified before the jury today.

The arrest of the Klansmen was announced the day after the slaying. Rowe's role as an undercover informant apparently accounted for the speed. He reportedly called the FBI within four hours as soon as he could slip away.

Rowe reportedly told the FBI he was sitting in the back seat of the car from which the

bullets were fired. A reliable source said Rowe contended the shooting happened quickly and on the spur of the moment and he was helpless to interfere.

Rowe has been supplying the FBI with information on Klan activities since 1960 according to the source.

Rowe and the three defendants were listed as members of the United Klans of America, the Nation's largest Klan with an estimated membership of 5000.

As Rowe emerged from the jury room today, a reporter tried to follow him but was shouldered to the wall by an FBI agent. The reporter continued down the hallway but another agent blocked the exit.

A-2
The Washington Post and Times Herald _____
The Washington Daily News _____
The Evening Star _____
New York Herald Tribune _____
New York Journal-American _____
New York Daily News _____
New York Post _____
The New York Times _____
The Baltimore Sun _____
The Worker _____
The New Leader _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
People's World _____
Date 4/21/65

ENCLOSURE

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

RE : SAC, TAMPA (170-150)

JECT: DOROTHY M. ROWE
INFORMATION CONCERNING

DATE: 4/28/65

GARY T. POWELL

In connection with the divorced husband of the captioned individual, there are transmitted herewith the following newspaper articles concerning the divorced husband of captioned individual, which I thought might be of interest to the Bureau:

"KKK Men: 'Harassed and Innocent'," 4/23/65 edition, "St. Petersburg Independent," St. Petersburg, Florida;

"Man Arrested in Alabama Killing Proves FBI Agent," 4/21/65 edition, "Clearwater Sun," Clearwater, Florida;

"Liuzzo Case 'Suspect' Apparently FBI Agent," 4/21/65 edition, "The St. Petersburg Times," St. Petersburg, Florida;

"Jury Findings Due on Liuzzo Slaying," 4/22/65 edition, "St. Petersburg Independent," St. Petersburg, Florida;

"FBI Undercover Agent?," 4/23/65 edition "The St. Petersburg Times," St. Petersburg, Florida;

"3 Klansmen Indicted in Woman's Slaying," 4/23/65 edition "St. Petersburg Times," St. Petersburg, Florida;

"FBI Informer No Surprise to Klan," 4/22/65 edition, "The Clearwater Sun," Clearwater, Florida, by TOM CHASE;

"Alabama Grand Jury Readies Report on Night Rider Slaying," 4/22/65 edition, "Clearwater Sun," Clearwater, Florida.

2 - Bureau (Encs. 8)(RM) REC-25

1 - Tampa

JFS:jn

(3)

44-28601-271

5-4
APR 30 1965FBI - TAMPA
INTL. SEC.

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan



FBI

KKK Men: 'Harassed And Innocent'

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Three Ku Klansmen were free on \$10,000 each in Birmingham, Ala., today on trial on first degree murder in the ambush death of a Demonstrator who marched for civil

? three said they were innocent
had been subject to almost continual
harassment by telephone calls and
in recent weeks.

air attorney, Matt H. Murphy Jr., sued President Johnson for his role in connection with the arrest of members. Murphy said he would subpoena the President "if I hope to represent these men."

There were these other developments on the racial scene:

-Tear gas and smoke bombs were used by police to stop a demonstration by more than 300 Negroes in the west Alabama city of Demopolis. Five demonstrators were arrested. Fourteen persons were treated for tear gas burns at a hospital.

—The Senate began debate on the voting rights bill in Washington. Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee which sent the bill to the floor said the nation must have "new, strong legislation to protect voting rights." Twelve Southern senators organized forces to oppose the measure.

—Civil rights movement officials said

their organizations planned quieter campaigns in Mississippi this summer because the state has experienced marked changes. The appraisals were made at a meeting of the Mississippi Council on Human Relations in Jackson.

—Paul Beliesen, the missing Nampa, Idaho, Negro who briefly held membership in the Ku Klux Klan last February, has turned up in San Francisco and apparently dropped from sight again.

—Some 300 University of Mississippi students demonstrated last night outside a campus dormitory where several Negroes — here for the Southern Literary Festival — were staying. Campus police reportedly had the demonstrators under control shortly after midnight.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

16 B St. Petersburg
Independent
St. Petersburg,

Date: 4/23/65

Editions

Author:

Editor: Del Riarth

Title:

Character:

9

Classification:

Submitting Office: Tampa

Being Investigated

44-28661-2

مکالمہ احمدیہ

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

An Arrested In Alabama Killing Proves FBI Agent

NEW YORK — Gary T. [redacted] Montgomery civil rights march. One of the four men allegedly arrested by federal agents in the slaying of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Alabama, has been identified as an undercover agent for the FBI, the New York Times said today.

[redacted] c., 34, of Birmingham, was arrested yesterday at Hayneville, Ala., before the Lowndes County grand jury investigating the fatal shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, 44-year-old Detroit mother of five. The government later dropped charges against Rowe and he was freed.

Liuzzo was slain in a field shortly after she participated in the March 25 Selma to

The Times said in a dispatch from Hayneville that although the details of Rowe's story are not known, the circumstances indicate he was in the assailants' car when Mrs. Liuzzo was killed, but could not prevent the shooting.

The three other men taken into custody the same day Rowe was arrested — March 26 — have been indicted in Montgomery on federal charges of conspiring to violate the constitutional rights of demonstrators. President Johnson, in announcing their arrests, described them as members of the Ku Klux Klan.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

11b Clearwater Sun
Clearwater, Fla.

Date: 4/21/65

Edition:

Author:

Editor: James L. Beards

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Tampa

Being Investigated

44-28661-271
E. J. S. M.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

**Luzzo Case 'Suspect'
Apparently FBI Agent**

Special To The Times
From The New York Times

MARYSVILLE, Ala. — Gary Rowe, one of the four men originally accused by federal officers in the slaying of Mrs. Vi Liuzzo, emerged yesterday as an apparent undercover agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Rowe testified for about two hours yesterday afternoon before a Grand Jury which is investigating the slaying of the Detroit civil rights worker on March 25.

The Grand Jury is expected to return its decision before noon today.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

**Tampa The St. Petersburg
Times
St. Petersburg, Florida**

Date: 4/21/65

Edition:

Author:

Editor: Courtland Anderson

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Tampa

Being Investigated

44-38671

Fury Findings Due On Liuzzo Slaying

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — A Grand Jury reports its findings today in the investigation of the night rider slaying of 39-year-old white civil rights worker.

A Lowndes County jury of 18 white completed its investigation yesterday into the ambush slaying of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo of Detroit and of several other cases. It reportedly returned indictments, but their nature will not be known until after the formal reading and until those indicted have been taken into custody.

Meanwhile, the president of the Black, La., Civic and Voters League which claims it speaks for the town's Negroes — was arrested on a charge of passing a worthless \$15 check.

Meanwhile, polls and petitions fanned through the Negro community seeking to pin down who represents the

city's 9,000 Negroes in biracial talks, negotiations and demands for civil rights.

Mayor Jesse Cutrer said the league and members of the Congress of Racial Equality "are a small group of self-styled leaders who do not represent the Negro community." He said they "do not want to negotiate. They want to demonstrate."

In Nampa, Idaho, the Negro who served a one-day term as Grand Titan of the Idaho Ku Klux Klan in February was reported missing. His wife, Mrs. Emmaline Bellesen, told Nampa police her husband, Paul Bellesen, left home in the family car and had not returned.

Later, one of Bellesen's former employees in a janitor service, told police he saw Bellesen in San Francisco International Airport. He said Bellesen told him, "I'm just sort of taking a vacation and I don't want anybody to know you saw me."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

20b St. Petersburg
Independent
St. Petersburg

Date: 4/22/65

Edition:

Author:

Editor: Del Barth

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Tampa

Being Investigated

44-3867

311

FBI Undercover Agent?

ANALYSIS

INGTON — Money, duty. A favor in court, or the persuasions of Ku Klux Klans, Communists and gangsters — and when it needs information, it comes only from the in-

m — and usually only for jobs — do FBI agents lives become members of, the party, or the syn-

tently — and not only for jobs but often for years inuing information — in- is already in the organ- are tapped.

ETIMES — and this is difficult — individuals on nes or totally outside the Klan, are contacted ed to join up and start ng out information.

Thomas Rowe was, as en reported, the tipster i the FBI to the alleged of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in ia, he did so as a Klan-nd not as a member of I.

term "undercover

agent," which has been applied to Rowe and others, can be confusing.

It sometimes means a trained FBI agent who conceals his identity and pretends to be something else.

But the term also is loosely applied to informers — men and women who are not in the FBI but who, for some inducement, regularly supply information to the government men.

FBI DIRECTOR J. Edgar Hoover has often said the bureau has the Klan virtually wired for sound with informants.

"At times," Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach quipped recently, "I think we know more about what the Klan is doing than we know about what some divisions in the Justice Department are doing."

The FBI refused to discuss any aspect of the Liuzzo case and issued a terse "no com-

ment" when asked about a New York Times report that Rowe had been its undercover man in the case.

It is commonly known, however, that the FBI will pay for information, strictly on a cash-on-delivery basis. One Justice Department source says as much as \$5,000 or \$10,000 may be paid for a particularly important piece of information.

But in the day-to-day routine of law enforcement, it's more likely that the payment will only cover a man's expenses or give him a little extra pocket money.

THE AMOUNT SPENT BY
Hoover's men for information each year does not appear in the FBI appropriation chart. But experts describe it as "pretty small potatoes."

Money is not the only inducement offered by FBI men seeking information. Much has been gained from a private, discreet discussion of a man's duty to his country and the need for law and order.

And while the FBI won't talk

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

15 The St. Petes
Times
St. Petersburg

Date: 4/23/65

Edition:

Author:

Editor: Courtland And

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Tampa

Being Investigated

44-28401 271

ENCLOSURE



GARY THOMAS ROWE

... reported tipster.

about it, a potential informant may often be brought around with the oblique reminder that he may, one day, desire leniency for crimes in which he has become involved.

The Times report said that although the details of Rowe's story are now known, the circumstances indicate he was in the assailants' car when Mrs. Liuzzo was killed, but could not prevent the shooting. Three men who were with Rowe have been indicted on federal charges of conspiracy to violate the constitutional rights of civil rights demonstrators. Charges against Rowe were dropped and he was released, a free man.

44-31601-

~~ENCLOSURE~~

Klansmen Indicted Woman's Slaying

Analysis, 15-A.

NEVILLE, Ala. (UPI) — Alabama Grand Jury yesterday indicted three Ku Klux Klan members for the March 25 slaying of Detroit civil rights worker Viola Liuzzo. The three arrested in Birmingham were held free on bonds of \$10,000.

I was met for May 3 in
ville.

HED IN THE murder war-
were Collie Leroy Wilkins
1, and Eugene Thomas,
th of Fairfield, and Wil-
l. Eaton, 41, of Bessemer.

were taken into custody
owndes County Shériff
Ryals and taken to Jef-
County Jail in Birning-
r bonding.

- posting the bonds, they
- jailhouse grinning.

bonds were set by
3 Circuit Court Judge T.

Werth Thagard and approved by
Jefferson County Sheriff Mel
Bailey.

THE BONDS were posted by their attorney, Matt H. Murphy Jr. who filed with Bailey a writ of habeas corpus demanding charges against the three men be dismissed. Bailey said he would forward the writ to Thagard.

The judge set an arraignment hearing for the three men at 10 a.m. EST Monday in his Hayneville court.

The Klansmen's attorney Murphy, held a news conference with his clients and Klan Grand Dragon Robert Shelton last night and announced he would subpoena President Johnson and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover for the trial.

Legal sources, however, said the president of the United States is immune from subpoena.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

16 A St. Petersb
Times
St. Petersbur

Date: 4/23/65

| Edition 2

Author:

Editor: Courtland A.

Title:

Character:

2

Classification:

Submitting Office: Tampa

Being Investigated

44-28601

ENCLOSURE

FBI Informer No Surprise To Klan

By TOM CHASE
ANTA, Ga. (AP) — Top Klansmen say they are surprised by FBI claims the orders have been infiltrated but they say government should spend more time

Communists. In Craig, Georgia grand of the United Klans of Ga., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, said the case of Garmonas Rowe Jr. of Brimmon was nothing new. "He's one of the men who has been playing a dual role long," said Craig, 36, yesterday night.

was talking to Shelton that over the weekend," he said. "Shelton told me he has it for several years." He referred to Robert M. W. of Tuscaloosa, Ala., imperial wizard of the United of America and, as such, all head of several state s. Shelton could not be ed for comment.

Reported Tipster
e was reported to be the e who provided the FBI information which resulted in arrests in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King, the Detroit of five killed March 25 the civil rights march Selma to Montgomery. Federal and Alabama cities have declined comment on the Rowe report. "Initially," said Craig, "we had some of the crimes attributed to the KKK have been by FBI informers to create of hatred against the organization when true klansmen were not involved."

suggested the House Un-American Activities Committee investigate what he called the communistic element involved in the Selma to Montgomery march rather than starting a of the KKK.

James R. Venable of Stone Mountain, Ga., imperial wizard of the National Knights of the Ku Klux Klan Inc., said the FBI ought to be using its agents "in the Communist field rather than trying to catch KKs."

At the same time, Venable said, "there has never been any member of the KKK charged with selling any secrets of the U.S. government or with insurrection nor has there been one who hesitated when asked to serve in the military."

Just to be on the safe side, Venable said, "we are setting traps for pimps and infiltrators. We are setting more traps than the FBI."

Nothing To Hide

Asked if he knew of federal agents in his organizations, he said, "I don't know of any, but I'm sure we've got them. We have nothing secret to hide. Our tactics are to use the ballot box to win this race war."

Craig said he would welcome FBI agents to his organization "if they could qualify. But we don't want them coming in as druggists or mechanics or imposters of any kind."

"E. McDaniel, grand dragon of the United Klans of America in Mississippi, declined comment about the FBI when reached at his home in Natchez.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover often has said the bureau has the Klan virtually wired for sound with informants.

"At times I think we know more about what the Klan is doing than we know about what some divisions in the Justice Department are doing," Atty. Gen. Nicholas Katzenbach quipped recently in Washington.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

6a The Clearwater Sun
Clearwater, Fla.

Date: 4/22/65

Edition:

Author: Tom Chase

Editor: James L. Beardsley

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:Tampa

Being Investigated

44-28601 21

ENCLOSURE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAY 1 1965

TELETYPE

TO: EXZRPDC

I MOBILE

27 PM URGENT 5-1-65 MMA

DIRECTOR /44-28601/

DM MOBILE /44-1245/

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

GENE THOMAS; ET AL; MRS VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA ET AL
Civil Rights Election Laws
TIMS; ER - EL.

BIRMINGHAM POST HERALD, DAILY NEWSPAPER, UNDER DATE LINE
FIRST, SIXTYFIVE, CARRIES THE FOLLOWING NEWS RELEASE:

MATT H. MURPHY, JR., ATTORNEY FOR THOMAS, WILKINS AND
TON, SAID "THINGS ARE SHAPING UP FAVORABLY FOR OUR CASE
I MIGHT ASK FOR ALL THREE TO BE TRIED AT ONCE."

ORIGINALLY WAS GRANTED A REQUEST FOR SEPARATE TRIALS FOR
E MEN.

CONTACTS WITH [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SELMA, DEVELOPED THAT STOKELY CARMICHAEL, FIELD SECRETARY, SNCC, WAS HANDLING RACIAL ACTIVITIES IN LOWNES

ALABAMA. THEY ADVISED THAT CARMICHAEL IS PRESENT IN ATLANTA, BUT

EXPECTED TO RETURN TO THE SELMA AREA MOMENTARILY.

1 MAY 1965

MR. BELMONT FOR DIRECTOR

8 MAY 4 1965

Mr. R. Belmont
5/3/65
GWH

6-A17

GE TWO

EY BOTH ADVISED ON CONTACT THEY KNOW OF NO PLANNED
MONSTRATION FOR MAY ~~THREE~~; ^{3 1965} ~~SEPTMBER~~ AT HAYNEVILLE, ^{ALABAMA} ALA.,
I WILL DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH NORMAN AND CARMICHAEL
ON THEIR RETURN TO SELMA AND HAVE THEM IMMEDIATELY
CONTACT THE FBI IF THERE IS ANY SUCH DEMONSTRATION PLANNED.

DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEYS GEORGE RAYBORN AND JAMES TURNER
SCENE AT SELMA AND MONTGOMERY, ^{ALABAMA} ALA., BEING ADVISED.

D

BJH

I WASH DC -

RU

C-MR ROSEN

**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
COMMUNICATIONS SEC. 21**

MAY 4 1965

TELETYPE

31 WASH DC

VI BIRMINGHAM

147 PM CST URGENT 5-3-65 GDM

DIRECTOR

OM BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

GENE THOMAS, ET AL. VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL VICTIMS. CR.

SAC INGRAM, BIRMINGHAM, APPEARED IN CIRCUIT COURT, WAYNEVILLE,
A., TODAY IN RESPONSE TO SUBPOENA RE: TRIAL CAPTIONED MATTER.

AIR MAIL COPY TO MOBILE.

ACK FOR TWO

— 1 —

INFORMATION 7 1965

WASH DC

• MAY 4 1965

EX 10g

cc-fines

F B I

Date:

4/30/65

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plain text or code)

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI 44-28601

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1236)

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka; ET AL - VICTIMS
CR; EL

Transmitted herewith for the information and assistance of the Bureau are two copies of a photograph which appeared in "The Tuscaloosa News" at Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

One copy of the same newspaper photograph showing MATT MURPHY, the three subjects and ROBERT SHELTON at a Klan rally is forwarded herewith to Mobile.

2 Enclosures
3 Bureau (enc-2)
2 Mobile (enc-1)
1 Birmingham

RGJ:fc
(6)

EX 110

REC-23

44-36001-278

21 MAY 4 1965

C. C. WORK

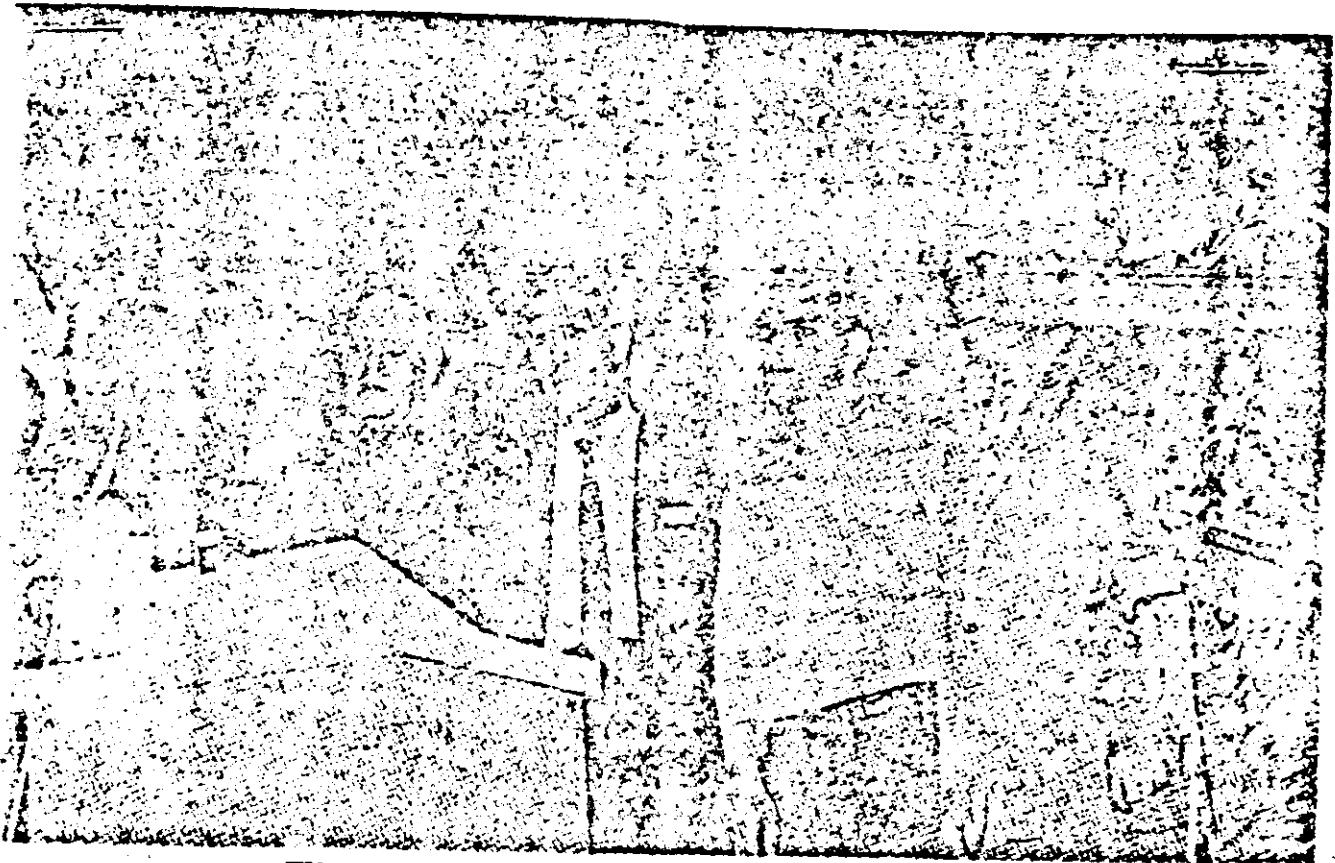
Approved: 107 Sent _____ M Per _____
30 MAY 11 Special Agent in Charge



Three Suspects At Klan Rally Here

The three men indicted in connection with the slaying of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo were introduced at a Ku Klux Klan rally in Tuscaloosa last Saturday night. Shown above, flanked by Imperial Wizard Robert Shelton

(right) and Klan attorney Matt Murphy (left) are (from the left): Eugene Thomas, Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr., and William Orville Eaton.



Three Suspects At Klan Rally Here

The three men indicted in connection with the slaying of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo were introduced at a Ku Klux Klan rally in Tuscaloosa last Saturday night. Shown above, flanked by Imperial Wizard Robert Shelton (right) and Klan attorney Matt Murphy (left) are (from the left) : Eugene Thomas, Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr., and William Orville Eaton.

Memorandum

Mr. Belmont

OM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;
VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL. -
VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS

DATE: April 30, 1965

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

Belpoint
Benn
Booc
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

On the afternoon of 4/29/65, SAC Ingram of the Birmingham Office was served with a subpoena to appear for the defense at the trial of Collie Wilkins on 5/3/65. Wilkins is charged with the murder of Viola Liuzzo. The subpoena is for Ingram's personal appearance and it is not requested that he bring any records.

The receipt of the subpoena by SAC Ingram was discussed with Mr. Robert Owen of the Civil Rights Division on 4/29/65. Owen advised that the Department would take the matter under consideration and would take action with regard to the subpoena.

On 4/30/65, Mr. Owen of the Department advised that he had taken the matter of the subpoena of SAC Ingram up with Assistant Attorney General Doar and with attorneys of the Civil Division of the Department and it was the opinion of the Department that there was no basis for filing a motion to quash the subpoena.

Owen advised that the Attorney General has directed a telegram to SAC Ingram advising him that he should appear in answer to the subpoena and testify. It states that Ingram cannot testify to anything contained in the records or files of the Bureau and the Department of Justice pursuant to Order of the Attorney General number 324-64 dated 10/8/64. His testimony is to be limited only to matters of personal knowledge that are relevant to the issue of the trial.

Mr. Owen is furnishing a copy of the Attorney General's telegram and he stated that an attorney from the Civil Division of the Department who is experienced in handling matters of subpoena is proceeding to Hayneville, Alabama, and will be present to protect the Government interest when SAC Ingram is called to testify.

REC-28

25 MAY 5 1965

JWH/nkr
(8)

COPY SENT TO MR. TOLSON CONTINUED - Ov

25 MAY 1 1965 XEROX
117 MAY 17 1965

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.;

SAC Ingram has advised that he has not been in direct contact with any of the defendants, has not participated in any of the interviews or searches and that there is actually nothing that he can testify to from his personal knowledge.

ACTION:

SAC Ingram will be instructed to answer the subpoena and testify in accordance with the Attorney General's telegram. He is also being advised that an attorney from the Civil Division of the Department will be present to protect the Government's interest when he is called to testify.

Guth *R* *Ingr*
Hess *X* *Keyne* *b*
B *dir*

United States Senate

Washington, D. C., April 29, 1965

Respectfully referred to

Director J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

For your information.

38 APR 30 1965

44-28601-2

21 APR 30 1965

CORRESPONDENCE

Frank J. Lausche

U.S.S.

Rec'd 50

"ENCLOSURE ATTACHED"

"ENCLOSURE"

"2nd Service"

746-11

COPY

April 29, 1965

Mr.

b7C

Columbus, Ohio

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Senator Lausche has discussed with me and requested that I acknowledge your letter of recent date in which you expressed your views concerning the FBI and the death of Mrs. Luizzo in Selma, Alabama.

The Senator appreciates receiving the benefit of your views and will bring your letter to the attention of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Please be assured that your letter was welcome.

Sincerely yours,

Ray M. White
Administrative Assistant to
Senator Frank J. Lausche

RMW:mt

44-28601-287

ENCLOSURE

Dear Senator Leuschke:

There is something terribly wrong with an FBI man sitting in a car and letting other men kill anyone. I can see no element of justification-even the protection of his own life if by any chance it was in fact in danger.

This disclosure makes the President's speech on Friday evening following the incident most difficult to understand.

Also why is the FBI man not guilty of something?

It reminds one of the 38 New Yorkers who stood by during a murder-and offering no help.

This is a most horrific
have happened, even if she was a nosy woman perhaps not
where she belonged.

More than the usual news coverage should
be undertaken in this case-the FBI claims its duty is only
investigative. Was this mans job investigative? Hardly.

b7c

REC-50

EX 109

44-28601-287

May 4, 1965

Honorable Frank J. Lausche
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

My dear Senator:

Your note of April 29th, with enclosures, has been received, and I appreciate your bringing this to my attention.

Although I would like to be of service to your constituent, I am not in a position to comment in any manner as he has suggested inasmuch as one of the individuals involved in the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo went on trial May 3rd and prosecution of the others is to follow. I can assure you, however, that the person referred to was not a Special Agent of the FBI, and I trust your constituent will understand why it is not within our prerogative to comment on this case.

Sincerely yours,

COMM-FBI
MAIL
CQH

- Mr. DeLoach - Enclosures (3)
- Mr. Rosen - Enclosures (3)

NOTE: Constituent [REDACTED] has no record in Bufiles. The [REDACTED] enclosures were a copy of [REDACTED] letter to Senator Lausche and a copy of his answer to [REDACTED] over the signature of his Administrative Assistant Ray M. White. The individual to whom [REDACTED] refers is Gary Thomas Rowe, and informant who was present during the murder of Mrs. Liuzzo, a civil rights worker in Alabama. This response was discussed with the Civil Rights Section of the General Investigative Division. We have had cordial relations with Senator Lausche.

KLS:dll (7)

MAY 12 1965 TELETYPE UNIT

REC'D 5-12-65
FBI - BIRMINGHAM
John T. [Signature]
GJW

DECODED COPY

AIRGRAM CABLEGRAM RADIO TELETYPE

12:30 PM EST URGENT 4-26-65 AJG

TO DIRECTOR, BIRMINGHAM, TAMPA AND MIAMI
FROM SAVANNAH 261639

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL, VIOLA LIUZZO; ET AL+VICTIMS
CR; EL.

CIVIL RIGHTS ELECTIONS

ON APRIL 15 LAST [REDACTED] ADVISED THAT ON [REDACTED]

SOUTH CAROLINA, GRAND DRAGON BOB [REDACTED] b7D

SCOGGINS EXHIBITED THE PHOTOGRAPH OF ROWE, FBI INFORMANT, IN THE SELMA, ALABAMA, MURDER AND INSTRUCTED ALL GRAND OFFICERS, EXALTED CYCLOPS AND TITANS AND INVESTIGATORS OF THE KLAN TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR HIM. IF THIS INDIVIDUAL IS LOCATED THE GRAND DRAGON IS TO BE IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIED OF HIS WHEREABOUTS.

INFORMANT ADVISED THAT THIS MEANT THAT "THE GUN IS OUT FOR HIM" AS AN "FBI FINK" AND THAT HE WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF FOR "LYING." HE ALSO ADVISED THAT THE KLAN IS TRYING TO LOCATE FAMILY OF ROWE, HOWEVER, HE DID NOT KNOW WHY THEY WANTED HIS FAMILY BUT PROBABLY WANTED TO HARASS THEM TO FIND OUT WHERE ROWE IS LOCATED. ALL SOUTHERN OFFICES ADVISED BY LHM. LETTERHEAD MEMORANDUM.

RECEIVED: 1:47 PM CLRC

REC-39

EX-110

CC: MR. ROSEN

MR. BELLMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

P 02 158 SJ BECE 15 12 1965 25 MAY 5 1965

69 MAY 11 1965

REC'D - 105

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

rights worker, Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, between Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, on 3/25/65.

Birmingham has additionally advised that SAC Ingram appeared in Circuit Court, Hayneville, 5/3/65, in response to defense subpoena. Prior to appearance, SAC Ingram conferred with Departmental attorney who furnished SAC with letter from Attorney General outlining the scope and conditions of any testimony to be given by SAC. As entire lay spent hearing motions and selecting jury, SAC not called as witness. When court adjourned, defense counsel advised not necessary for SAC Ingram to appear in court until morning of 5/6/65.

EA:pah

[Handwritten signature]

SI WASH DC

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAY 3 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

SI MOBILE

12 PM CST URGENT

5/3/65

VFP

DIRECTOR

FM MOBILE /44-1245/

IGENE THOMAS, ETAL; MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL-VIC JIM.

MS.
EL.
Electron. Law

TRIAL IN CAPTIONED MATTER AGAINST SUBJECT COLLIE WILKINS BEGAN MAY THREE, INSTANT, AT HAYNEVILLE, ALA. TWO MOTIONS ARE FILED BY DEFENSE COUNSEL MATT MURPHY AND WERE RULED ON COURT, THE FIRST CONTESTING THE JUSTICE OF THE COURT. CAUSE OF PUBLICITY ATTENDANT TO ANNOUNCEMENT ON SUBJECTS REST BY PRESIDENT JOHNSON WAS DENIED. A SECOND MOTION TO INTERVIEW STATE WITNESSES GARY THOMAS ROWE AND LEROY MOTON IS GRANTED.

MURPHY TALKED TO BOTH ROWE AND MOTON. HE WAS ASSISTED BY RALPH ROTON, THE PUBLIC RELATIONS MAN IN ALABAMA FOR THE UNITED KLANS. ROTON HANDLED TAPE RECORDING EQUIPMENT. THE RESULTS OF ROWES' INTERVIEW HAVE BEEN FURNISHED IN SEPARATE

1 PAGE ONE

RC MAY 10 1965

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

REC-35

44-28601-
28
25 MAY 5 1965

6 AM

PAGE TWO . . .

TELETYPE RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH MOTON ARE NOT KNOWN.

THE BALANCE OF THE DAY WAS SPENT IN SELECTING JURORS FROM JURY PANEL. COURT ADJOURNED AT FOUR FIFTY PM AT WHICH TIME A JURY HAD BEEN SELECTED AND TRIAL IS SCHEDULED TO PROCEED NINE AM MAY FOUR, NEXT.

DISSEMINATION OF LETTERHEAD MEMORANDA CONCERNING DEFENSE
T^{HE}SS^ESSES
TESSSED FORWARDED WITH BIRMINGHAM AIRTELS APRIL TWENTYNINE
ID THIRTY, LAST, TO CIRCUIT SOLICITOR ARTHUR GAMBLE HAS BEEN
IMPLETED.

ID

RPP

WASH DC

MR. ROSEN

Memorandum

Mr. Belmont

DATE: April 29, 1965

OM : A. Rosen

JECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.
VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Hines

With the forthcoming trial in state court of subject Collie LeRoy Wilkins for the murder of Mrs. Liuzzo, which is scheduled to begin Monday, May 3, 1965, at Hayneville, Alabama, the question arises as to the desirability of an Agent being present in the courtroom during the proceedings.

It will be necessary that Agents be available to insure complete protection of our informant during the period that he is in Hayneville for the purpose of testifying. Following the completion of his testimony, he should depart from the area, and it should not be necessary for Agents to remain.

The state prosecutor has indicated to Inspector Joseph Sullivan that he desired to have as few "Federal Agents" as possible at the trial. It is realized that several FBI Agents will necessarily be used as witnesses by the prosecutor. Other FBI Agents may be necessary as rebuttal witnesses following the testimony given by the defense. It is also known that the Department plans to have an attorney at Hayneville during the trial.

RECOMMENDATION

Since Inspector Sullivan will be in close touch with the state prosecutor and can follow the proceedings through him, and as the prosecutor has indicated that he does not desire "Federal Agents" around, it is recommended that we do not have an Agent sitting in the courtroom observing the proceedings. The presence of Agents if known would, of course, be the subject of considerable comment by Alabama news media

CLM/cac

(6)

REC 5

EX 109

44-28601-290

CONTINUED - OVER

MAY 5 1965

6/11

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.

and would not in any way assist in the handling of the prosecution. Agents who will necessarily be present to afford protection for our informant and to appear as witnesses for the prosecution will be instructed to remove themselves from the courtroom and the area just as soon as they have finished their specific assignments.

Chu V. S. OK
R. J. M. C. X

5/3/65

PLAIN TEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

EX 109

REC 5-

44-28601-290

1 - Mr. Hines

TO SAC MOBILE

FROM DIRECTOR FBI

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.; MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL.
DASH VICTIMS, CIVIL RIGHTS.

WITH REGARD TO THE TRIAL OF SUBJECT COLLIE LEROY
WILKINS WHICH BEGAN IN STATE COURT, LOWNDES COUNTY,
ALABAMA, THIS DATE, IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT IT WILL BE
NECESSARY FOR AGENTS TO BE AVAILABLE TO INSURE COMPLETE
PROTECTION OF OUR INFORMANT DURING THE PERIOD HE IS
IN HAYNEVILLE, ALABAMA, AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF TESTIFYING
HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE STATE PROSECUTOR'S DESIRE THAT AS
FEW "FEDERAL AGENTS" AS POSSIBLE BE AT THE TRIAL, YOU
MUST INSURE THAT AGENTS WHO WILL NECESSARILY BE PRESENT
TO AFFORD PROTECTION FOR OUR INFORMANT AND TO APPEAR
AS WITNESSES FOR THE PROSECUTION ARE INSTRUCTED TO REMOV

JWH/nkr (3) ? See Rosen to Belmont, 4/29/65, same caption, CLM/c
LH, P

MAY 11 1965

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAY 3 1965

TELETYPE

~~TELETYPE TO SAC MOBILE~~
RE: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.

THEMSELVES FROM THE COURTROOM AND THE AREA JUST AS SOON
AS THEY HAVE FINISHED THEIR SPECIFIC ASSIGNMENTS.

- 2 -

b5 b (k) 2

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAY 3 1965

TELETYPE

720 117 117 2
397401

Memorandum

Mr. Belmont

DM : A. Rosen *Rew*SUBJECT: EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.
VIOLA LIUZZO, ET AL. - VICTIMS
CIVIL RIGHTS

DATE: May 4, 1965

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
 - 1 - Mr. Callahan
 - 1 - Mr. Sullivan
 - 1 - Mr. Belmont
 - 1 - Mr. Rosen
 - 1 - Mr. Malley
 - 1 - Mr. McGowan
 - 1 - Mr. Hines
- Mel S. [initials]*
Haffey
- 10-
6-

Inspector Joseph Sullivan in Selma, Alabama, has telephonically advised that the Circuit Solicitor, Arthur Gamble, has requested a verification or documentation of payments which have been made to the informant (Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr.) over a period of years. According to Sullivan, the Solicitor desires to have some written record if possible to support testimony of Agents that payments had been made to this informant for a substantial period of time.

It should be noted that the Department had previously instructed SAC Ingram of the Birmingham Office that he was not to furnish any information whatsoever from the official files or records of the office in connection with his appearance at the trial.

ACTION TAKEN:

This matter is being taken up with the Civil Rights Division of the Department for a determination as to what action they desire be pursued concerning the request of the Circuit Solicitor to support the testimony of the Agents that payments have been made to this informant for a substantial period of time.

CLM/cac
(9)*Mr. [initials]**Do so promptly.*

REC-2644-291

ST-108

18 MAY 6 1965

79 MAY 7 1965
5/1/65*6-47*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

TING OFFICE MOBILE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MOBILE	DATE 4/3/65	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD "4/1/65 - 4/3/65
OF CASE EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka; LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS	REPORT MADE BY SA [REDACTED] b7c	TYPED BY [REDACTED] 3/14	
	CHARACTER OF CASE		
		CR - EL	10

REFERENCE:

Report of SA [REDACTED], 3/30/65, at Mobile. b7c

Report of S [REDACTED] 4/1/65, at Mobile.

- P -

LEAD:

THE MOBILE DIVISION

AT SELMA, ALABAMA and MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Will follow prosecutive action.

ED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
MADE:		14-28611-294	REC-47
5) - Bureau 1 - USA, Montgomery, Ala. 1 - Departmental Attorney Montgomery, Ala. 4 - Birmingham (1 - USA, Birmingham) 5 - Mobile (44-1245)		21 APR 6 1965	
DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT		NOTATIONS	
RECD.	14-1245	At	STAT SEC'D.
2. 14-1245	14-F	COVER PAGE	
3. 14-1245			
APR 11 1965		U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE	

MO 44-1245

DETAILS

On April 1, 1965, the following report was received from the Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory, Washington, D. C.

49 44-1245

On April 2, 1965, the Memphis Division advised
that they had interviewed [REDACTED] at Nashville,
Tennessee and he advised as follows: b7c

He first met Victim LIUZZO in Selma, Alabama,
about March 17 or 18, 1965, where he and LIUZZO had arrived
for Civil Rights work. LIUZZO volunteered her 1963 Oldsmobile
for use in transportation of Civil Rights workers, including

[REDACTED] Victim stayed in a Selma housing project apartment with
a Negro family and during the march from Selma to Montgomery,
March 21 - 25, 1965, LIUZZO walked in the march while her car
was used extensively on the march route by several integrated
groups of Civil Rights workers. [REDACTED] also said that LEROY
MOTON, Negro male victim, was with LIUZZO the night of the
slaying and that MOTON had used LIUZZO's car extensively.

LIUZZO was last seen by [REDACTED] in Montgomery,
Alabama, on March 25, 1965, about 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. upstairs
in the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church where fainting and ill
victims of the march were resting.

He does not recall if LIUZZO was ill at the time
nor does he know if LIUZZO was ever treated by a doctor while
she was in Alabama.

LIUZZO planned to return to Detroit, Michigan,
with [REDACTED] in her car, stopping en route at [REDACTED] home in
Nashville, however, after victim's slaying in Alabama, [REDACTED]
made other travel arrangements.

AO 44-1245

LE:gmh

The Philadelphia Office on April 1, 1965, forwarded a Certification of Birth for Mrs. LIUZZO.

This Birth Certificate was signed by C. L. WILBAR, JR., and was dated March 31, 1965, bearing the seal of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania under the number 451409. It certified that in file No. 56399-25 a record of birth was filed on April 18, 1925, showing that on April 11, 1925, in Pike Run Township, Pennsylvania, a female child, VIOLA FAUVER GREGG, was born to HEBER GREGG and EVA, maiden name WILSON.

4/2/65

[REDACTED], was contacted at her place of residence, at which time she furnished the following information:

b7c

She advised that she is employed as [REDACTED] in Selma, Alabama.

On March 25, 1965, she finished her day's work at the [REDACTED] about 6:00 PM that evening and went directly home. She advised that she has a three-year old child which necessitates her getting home around 6:00 PM each evening. She advised that she has a maid who takes care of her child during the day. [REDACTED] After observing photographs of EUGENE THOMAS, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., and WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, advised that she could not recognize any of these individuals as being persons she had ever seen. She was also shown photographs of a 1962 Chevrolet automobile, white over red in color, and advised that she could not identify this car as being one that she ever saw in the area of the Silver Moon Cafe.

She could furnish no information concerning the killing of Mrs. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO which occurred on Highway #80 east on the evening of March 25, 1965.

3/31/65 at Selma, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1245
SA [REDACTED] and b7c
SA [REDACTED] : bah Date dictated 4/1/65

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Date Apr 12, 1965

b7c

1 [REDACTED]
Alabama, who is employed as a [REDACTED]

Selma,

[REDACTED] Selma, was contacted and viewed photographs of EUGENE THOMAS, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, SO Number 113073, date of photograph March 26, 1965; COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, Sheriff's Office Birmingham, Alabama, SO Number unknown, date of photograph March 26, 1965; WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, SO Number unknown, photograph dated March 26, 1965; and GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, SO Number 113076, dated March 26, 1965. She stated that she was unable to identify any of these photographs as individuals known to her.

She advised after viewing the photograph of a 1962 Chevrolet, red and white in color, that she did not observe this car in the vicinity of the Silver Moon Cafe March 25, 1965.

She could not furnish any information in connection with the murder of VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO which took place on Highway 80 East, Selma, Alabama, March 25, 1965.

4-1-65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

SAs [REDACTED] and b7c
kq Date dictated 4-1-65

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Date 3/65

[REDACTED], was contacted at his place of employment and furnished the following information:

[REDACTED] advised that he is a regular customer of the Silver Moon Cafe (SMC) and goes there once or twice a week normally to drink beer on his way home from work. He could not recall specifically whether he was at the SMC the night of March 25, 1965, but if he had been there, he probably would have left around 7:00 PM.

He advised he had no information as to who may have been involved in the murder of Mrs. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO.

[REDACTED] after observing EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, and GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., advised that he could not recognize any of these individuals as being persons he had ever seen. He was shown photographs of a 1962 Chevrolet automobile, white over red in color, also and advised that he could not identify this car as being one that he ever saw in the area of the Silver Moon Cafe.

3/31/65 at Selma, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1245

SA [REDACTED] and b7c
SA [REDACTED] /bah Date dictated 4/1/65

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

**INTERVIEWS WITH VARIOUS
KU KLUX KLAN MEMBERS AND FORMER MEMBERS
WHO MIGHT HAVE HAD INFORMATION
RELATIVE TO THIS CASE**

10A

4/2/65

Date _____

1

[REDACTED] Selma, Alabama, furnished the following information:

[REDACTED] He advised that he was formerly affiliated with the Ku Klux Klan at Selma, Alabama. [REDACTED] also advised he has not been affiliated with the Klan for the past several years.

[REDACTED] stated he was never formerly initiated into the Klan but paid his dues and was intending to become a member but due to the amount of time taken up by his business he was unable to attend meetings.

[REDACTED] stated he is not presently active in the Klan and does not know of any present activity of the Klan in the Selma, Alabama area.

b7C

4/2/65 Selma, Alabama

File # MO 105-17 SF 19

SA [REDACTED]
SA [REDACTED]and
CEB/mjr

b7C

Date dictated 4/2/65

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Date

4/2/65

[REDACTED] Selma, Alabama, was interviewed at his place of employment, the [REDACTED] Selma, Alabama. [REDACTED] advised as follows:

b7C

He is ashamed of the fact that he was once a member of Klavern No. 47, J. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (USK, KKK). [REDACTED] stated he joined the Klan approximately five or six years ago and only attended two meetings at Selma. He voluntarily left the Klan as he became disillusioned. He initially joined thinking it was primarily a social organization; however, after attending two meetings he learned that they preached white supremacy and he felt they were a somewhat radical group.

[REDACTED] advised that to the best of his knowledge the Klan has not been active in Selma, Alabama, area for the past four years. He has not received any information that they intend to reactivate.

At the time [REDACTED] joined the Klan [REDACTED] at Selma, the leader of the Klavern No. 47 was [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] does not know if [REDACTED] is presently active in any Klan organization. The initiation fee was \$12.50 and [REDACTED] is unable to recall the amount of monthly dues. The Klavern at that time met in office space above the Tillman Drug Company, Selma. [REDACTED] was unable to state who occupied or rented the space used by the Klan at that time for their meetings.

After attending one meeting at Selma, [REDACTED] was initiated into the Klan at Prattville, Alabama. He was unable to recall the exact location. He advised he took the initiation at Prattville as he was told there was no Klan member or members in Selma capable of performing the initiating ceremony. [REDACTED] is unable to recall any of the details of the initiating ceremony, due to the lapse of time. He also stated that inasmuch as he only attended two meetings, he is unable to recall any other members of Klavern No. 47 at that time.

[REDACTED] stated that at the two meetings he attended, he did not hear any member discuss any plans for violent action against any individual or group. [REDACTED] stated should he learn of the Klan reactivating in the Selma, Alabama, area, or uncover any plans for violent action, he will immediately notify the FBI, Selma.

4/2/65

Selma, Alabama

File # Mobile 105-17 SF 19

SAs

[REDACTED] and
gmh

b7C
12

Date dictated

4/2/65

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Date Mar 1, 1965

1

[REDACTED] Alabama,
was interviewed at the [REDACTED] and he
furnished the following information:

[REDACTED] stated he was visiting in Montgomery, Alabama, on March 16, 1965, and that America is a free country and it was "none of the government's d--- business" as to why he participated in the Klan motorcade on that date.

[REDACTED] was asked if he were a member of the Klan and he advised that his father was a Klan member, but he refused to state specifically that he was a member of the Ku Klux Klan. b7c

[REDACTED] advised the announcement to appear in Montgomery for the motorcade was broadcast over the radio but he refused to specify any of the details as to who made the announcement or as to what was said.

[REDACTED] stated that he had never been interviewed by the FBI before and that he had never been arrested for any type of criminal violation. He stated he was a God fearing man and has attended church all of his life.

During the conduct of the interview [REDACTED] maintained a very arrogant, cocky attitude and indicated he would refuse to furnish any specific information about the Ku Klux Klan in the [REDACTED] area.

The following description of [REDACTED]
was obtained through observation and interview:

[REDACTED]

3-30-65

at Selma, Alabama

File # MO 44-1785-
b7C

SAs [REDACTED]

IR :kg 12

Date dictated 3-31-65

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Date A.ril 1, 19651

[REDACTED] Resident Address [REDACTED]
Alabama, telephone [REDACTED]
number [REDACTED] was interviewed in a Bureau Car
in [REDACTED], Alabama. [REDACTED] furnished the
following information:

b7C

[REDACTED] advised that he had been a member of the United Ku Klux Klan for approximately one and one-half years. He stated after admitting to being a member of the organization that he would not furnish any further information about other members or meeting places for their klavern.

[REDACTED] He stated he had participated in the motorcade in Montgomery, Alabama, on March 16, 1965, and that he had been notified about the motorcade through a radio announcement. He advised the radio announcement was made by the White Citizen's Council requesting all white citizens to appear in Montgomery and demonstrate for their civil rights.

[REDACTED] stated he felt the klan was a fine, worthwhile organization, but that if he ever developed information that members of the klan were to commit violence, he would furnish this information to Bureau Agents.

[REDACTED] maintained a very cooperative attitude during the entire interview.

The following description of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] was obtained through observation and interview:

[REDACTED]

3-30-65 at Greensboro, Alabama File # 40 157-651

SAs [REDACTED] and b7C Date dictated 3-31-65

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

4/2/65

Date

—as a [REDACTED], employed [REDACTED] furnished the following information:

[REDACTED] He advised he was formerly affiliated with Klavern 47 of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Selma, Alabama. He further advised he has not been associated with the Klan for [REDACTED] and was in the Klan for about [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated he does not plan participating in any Klan activities now and has no knowledge of present activity of Klavern 47.

[REDACTED] also stated he does not go along with acts of violence which have been committed by some members of the Klan.

[REDACTED] advised that shortly after he got out of the Klan he received on two different occasions, cards requesting that he pay up his dues and re-affiliate in the Klan. However, POSEY said he had lost interest in the Klan and would not re-affiliate.

4/2/65

Selma, Alabama

File #

MO 105-17 SF 19

SA [REDACTED]
SA [REDACTED]and
CEB/mjrDTC
20

Date dictated

4/2/65

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Date

4/2/65

[REDACTED] was interviewed at the [REDACTED]
Selma, Alabama, and advised the following:

[REDACTED] advised that he was a former member of Klavern No. 47, U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (USK, KKK), for a short period of time. [REDACTED] advised that he could not recall the exact dates of his membership and stated that he attended only two or three meetings prior to severing his connection with the Klan. [REDACTED] advised that at the time he belonged to Klavern No. 47, the Exalted Cyclops was [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated he does not recall who any of the other members were at this time. [REDACTED] advised that at the meetings he attended there were only about ten or fifteen members present.

[REDACTED] advised that the meetings he attended were held in a meeting hall on the second floor above the Tillman Drug Store and that he could not recall who had rented the hall or who had ownership of it at this time. [REDACTED] advised that since the time he attended these meetings, this building had burned and had been replaced by a one-story structure occupied by the Tillman Drug Company.

[REDACTED] advised that he was initiated into the Klavern at a meeting which took place in [REDACTED], Alabama, at a time and place that he does not recall.

[REDACTED] advised that while he held membership in Klavern No. 47, he does not recall any mention of violence or any plans having been made by the members to conduct violence of any type. [REDACTED] advised that he does not now have any knowledge that Klavern No. 47 is still in existence and stated that he would be willing to notify the FBI should he receive any information regarding the reactivation of Klavern No. 47 or any contemplated violence by any individuals in Selma, Alabama.

The following description was obtained through interrogation and observation:

4/2/65

at

Selma, Alabama

File # Mobile 105-17 SF 19

SAs

and

lgmh

b7C 21

Date dictated

4/2/65

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/3/65

[REDACTED] Selma,
Alabama, who [REDACTED]
voluntarily furnished the following information:

b7C

He joined the Ku Klux Klan in 1957 when [REDACTED] was the head of the Klan in Selma, Alabama. [REDACTED] was Grand Dragon of the State of Alabama, and he described the local Klan as being very disorganized during time he belonged. A friend, [REDACTED] was instrumental in getting him to join and the reason for joining was because he understood the Klan was for segregation of the races and was organized to protect segregationists. He said his main objection to integration was intermarriage. During his stay in the Klan, he participated in burning a few crosses and wore the sheets of the Klan masters but denied participating in or knowing of any beatings by Klan members.

He got feed up with talking about wanting to beat someone that was brought up at the meetings, but said the leaders were not for this either and all the leaders wanted to do was to do things to scare or intimidate the Negro but some in the Klan wanted to knock heads. At various meetings he attended there were from 25 to 30 individuals present but he only attended about 15 or 20 meetings during his 6 months stay in the Klan. The meetings were usually held at Old Odd-Fellows Meeting Hall.

The Prattville Klan helped organize the Klan in Selma, and he described a man he believed to be named [REDACTED] as one of them, and said this man was an expert on Klan Kraft. All this man's speeches stressed non-violence.

He quit going to Klan meetings after about [REDACTED] because there was too much arguing among the members about what they were going to do. He said in addition to participating in a few cross burnings, he and other Klansmen had talked to a few white and Negro drunks who they heard beat their wives in order to try to straighten them out.

He denied knowing anything about a Klan motorcade in [REDACTED]

On 4/2/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 105-17 Sub 19
by SA [REDACTED] and b7C
SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 4/3/65

2

MO 105-17 Sub 19

Montgomery, Alabama, on March 21, 1965.

He believed that the murder of Mrs. LIUZZO on March 25, 1965, had dried up all local remnants of Klan feeling which was about gone.

He said his impression of [REDACTED] is that [REDACTED] is dedicated to segregation but is not a Negro hater. He described [REDACTED] as a politician and said he never knew [REDACTED] to encourage violence.

The following description of [REDACTED] was obtained from observation and interrogation:

[REDACTED]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/3/651

[REDACTED] Selma, Alabama, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] White Citizens Council, Selma, was interviewed in his
office in [REDACTED] and furnished the following
information voluntarily:

b7C

There are 30 outstanding local men who compose the executive committee of the White Citizens Council and set policy and activity of the organization along with himself. The policy of the White Citizens Council is non-violence and obedience to all laws, but to fight for segregation in the courts of the land. He stressed that the White Citizens Council stays out of church affairs and has no policy in trying to influence church decisions as to segregation and integration. The White Citizens Council attempts to direct those informing the public concerning matters that are believed by the White Citizens Council to be the best interest of all people. They encourage people to send news clippings favorable to their views to other sections of the country.

He said there is no connection whatsoever between the White Citizens Council and the Ku Klux Klan aboveboard or below. He knows of no present members of the White Citizens Council of Selma, Alabama, who has ever had any connection with any Klan, however, he said it is entirely possible that some former Klan members are members of the White Citizens Council. He also stated that he knew nothing about any motorcade organized by the Klan in Montgomery, Alabama, on Sunday, March 21, 1965. He is positive that none of his executive committee or no person holding responsible position in White Citizens Council had any connection with this motorcade or encouraged anyone to join it. He said if any member of the White Citizens Council asked anyone to join this motorcade, they had done so as an individual and not as a White Citizen Council member and he has heard nothing of it.

He said to his knowledge he has had no contact with any Ku Klux Klan officers at any time.

On 4/2/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 105-17 Sub 19
by SA [REDACTED] and b7c 245 Date dictated 4/3/65

Date 4/3/651

[REDACTED] Selma, Alabama,
advised that he [REDACTED] Selma, Alabama. He furnished the
following information voluntarily:

b7C

He said he has never been a member of any Ku Klux Klan but was contacted in 1957 by an unknown individual who does not reside in Selma, Ala., to join a local Klan. He said he refused. He also recalls that one night two men whose names he does not know but who are not from the Selma area came by his house in sheets and hoods and he went with them in their car riding to Selma and out through country roads and back to his house. He said no activity took place and this drive was supposed to be for the purpose of encouraging him to join the Klan. He said he refused and has never filed an application, never attended a meeting, and never paid any dues to any Klan organization.

[REDACTED] insisted that he did not know the names or identities in any way of the persons who had contacted him to join the Klan, and could furnish no information as to how they got his name or why they selected him to become a member.

On 4/2/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 105-17 Sub 29
by SA [REDACTED] and b7C 24 Date dictated 4/3/65
SA [REDACTED]

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Date

4/2/65

[REDACTED] was interviewed at [REDACTED]
Selma, Alabama, and advised
the following:

[REDACTED] advised he was a former member of Klavern No. 47,
U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (USK, KKK) for a short period of time.
[REDACTED] advised he could not recall the exact
dates of his membership and stated he attended only two meetings prior to severing
his connection with the Klan. [REDACTED] advised that during the period of
time he belonged to Klavern No. 47 he believes that the Exalted Cyclops was
[REDACTED] but that he could not be certain of this. [REDACTED] advised that
he does not recall who any of the other members were during this period of time.
[REDACTED] advised that at the meetings he attended there were only about ten
or fifteen members present.

[REDACTED] advised that he could not recall where these meetings
were held but stated that they were in the downtown area of Selma, Alabama,
and that they were on the second floor of a building in this area. [REDACTED]
advised he did not know who held ownership of this hall nor any of the details
concerning its rental.

[REDACTED] advised that he was initiated into the Klan at a
meeting which was convened in [REDACTED] Alabama, the time and place he
does not recall.

[REDACTED] advised that while he held membership in Klavern
No. 47 he does not recall any mention of violence or any plans having been
made by the members to conduct violence of any type. [REDACTED] advised
he does not now have any knowledge that Klavern No. 47 is still in existence
and stated he would be willing to notify the FBI should he receive any information
regarding the reactivation of Klavern No. 47 or any contemplated violence by
any individuals in Selma, Alabama.

The following description was obtained through interrogation and
observation:

4/2/65

at Selma, Alabama

File # Mobile 105-17 SF 19

SAs
and [REDACTED]

b7C
d

Date dictated

4/2/65

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Date

4/3/65

[REDACTED] was contacted and advised he was formerly a member of Klavern No. 47 of the KKKK. [REDACTED] further advised he has not been active in the Klavern in over five years, and he has no plans of reactivating in the Klan.

[REDACTED] further stated he knows of no present activity of Klavern No. 47 and could furnish no information as to any activities now being engaged in by any Klavern.

4/3/65

Selma, Alabama

File # Mobile 105-17 SF 19

SA

and

479
Date dictated

4/3/65

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APPENDIX

U. S. KLANS, KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN, INC., ALSO KNOWN AS THE U. S. KLANS (USK)

A source advised on October 12, 1956, that ELDON LEE EDWARDS organized a new klan group in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1953. This organization received a corporate charter in Georgia in October, 1955, under the name U.S. Klans. The same source, and a second source, advised in May, 1960, that U. S. Klans has no direct affiliation with any previous klan group, but utilizes, with only minor changes, the klan kloran or ritual written in about 1915 by WILLIAM JOSEPH SIMMONS for use by the old Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (1915-1944).

These sources advised that the U.S. Klans has as its principal aims and objectives the promotion of Americanism, white supremacy and segregation of the races. On numerous occasions EDWARDS announced that these objectives would be attained by legal means and without violence.

The first source and a third source advised in February, 1961, that at that time a split occurred in U.S. Klans, which resulted in a great majority of the officers and members pulling out and forming a new klan group known as United Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, Inc.

These sources advised in May, 1962, that U. S. Klans is almost out of existence and only a few units remain.

APPENDIX

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